

Page 6, between lines 28 and 30, insert

-- Brief Description of the Drawings: --.

Page 7, between lines 14 and 16, insert

-- Description of the Preferred Embodiments: --.

Page 12, top, change "Patent claims" to -- We claim: --.

In the Claims:

sub  
BLS  
Claim 4 (amended). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the membrane-strip feed (12) to the cutting tool (11) is provided laterally above the membrane star (10).

a!  
Claim 5 (amended). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the membrane-strip feed (12) to the cutting tool (11) is provided at a feed angle of approximately 30 degrees.

Claim 6 (amended). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, during each resting phase (14) of the membrane star (10), in each case two membranes (13) can be transferred from the membrane strip (12), by way of a double cutting tool (11), to the membrane star (10).